

ROUNDABOUT

Bump in the Road for New Roundabout?

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

DPW Director Wally Tonaszuck will be contacting the design engineer about the roundabout at Lincoln and Congress streets to determine if there is currently a problem with how Route 14 traffic going toward the highway enters the circle.

"Clearly, if you are leaving the police station heading toward Route 3 you almost have a straight shot through the intersection," Town Manager Rocco Longo told selectmen Monday night. "There appears to be a slight problem" in the design, he said.

"If someone can enter without having to turn then it won't work as it is intended," Longo said.

On Tuesday, State Rep. Fran Marini said that the Mass. Highway Department is aware of the issue and they will make a design change.

"They assure me it will still be finished on time and on budget," he said.

Rod Emery, project manager for Highway and Traffic Safety Design, said the issue was only temporary until final curbing is constructed.

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Design of Roundabout May Be Flawed

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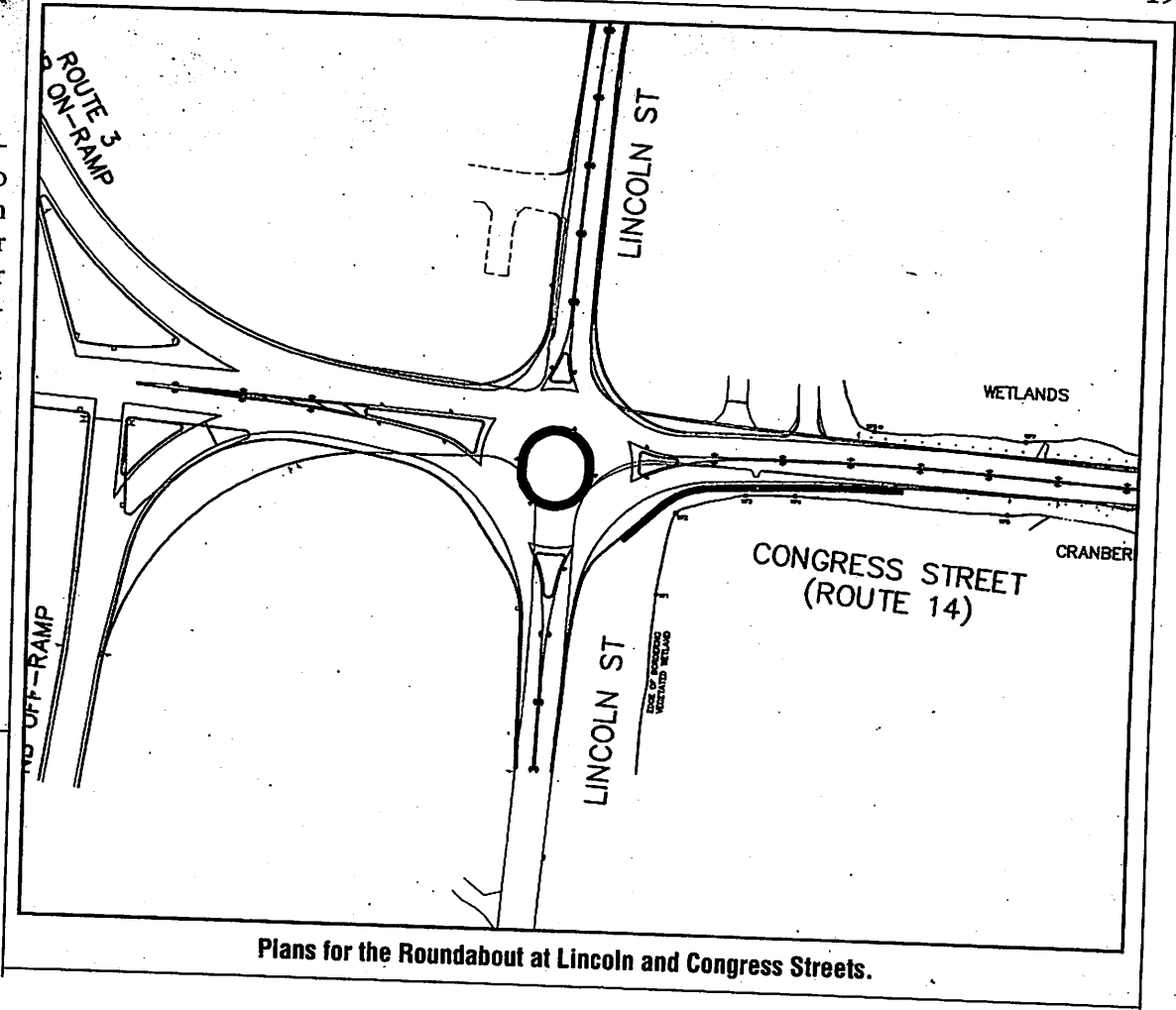
"Right now we have the old approach with a new roundabout. With a new approach and a new roundabout, we will have the proper deflection," he said.

Construction has been partially halted due to the Verizon telephone company strike. Longo said there are several poles that must be replaced at the intersection.

The roundabout is intended to improve the four-way intersection that also receives traffic from nearby Route 3 exit ramps, where many accidents

have occurred. It is a mini traffic circle that is intended to "calm" traffic and slow it down by funneling it around a center island. The concept is similar to but much smaller than a rotary.

Currently, there are multiple orange construction barrels marking the circle with arrow signs pointing the way for traffic. Selectmen said they have witnessed some motorists moving the wrong way through the roundabout. Longo said he knows of no accidents occurring there recently.



Plans for the Roundabout at Lincoln and Congress Streets.